

arranged with about a dozen countries, with the largest number of specimens received in exchange with museums from the United States.

Recording of new specimens continues in a traditional way by completing a museum label and a catalogue card. However, about 3% of the collection remains uncatalogued. Computer databasing of the collection started in 2001. Without special funding and because of lack of technical staff the progress is at low rate. However, we hope to combine our data with the database of the Paris Museum.

Type specimens: the ZMMU collection of types are kept separate to the main collection and comprises currently 335 specimens of 191 taxa (PAVLINOV & BORISSENKO 2001). A further 10 specimens can be added in the near future following their publication. The oldest type is that of *Podoces panderi* FISCH., collected in Kisil-Kum Desert in 1820 or 1821. It represents a type for a new bird species and genus. Most of the other types are of subspecific level. We recently published a catalogue of ZMMU type specimens, though during its preparation many queries were raised. However, we have already received feedback on this catalogue with some additions and corrections (thanks to Vladimir LOSKOT and Edward DICKINSON). Data for all type specimens are now recorded in a special database, which probably will be included in the Museum web site in the near future (www.zmmu.msu.ru).

3. RESTRICTIONS

The library of the Museum specialise in zoological literature and currently contains about 200,000 volumes. It is based on several private collections donated to the museum by former museum directors and professors (DEMENTIEV, GLADKOV, PLAVILSCHIKOV, OGNEV, NIKOLSKY and others). It also subscribes to a number of journals and receives others in exchange. However, sets of the most popular international ornithological journals are far from complete. With a now complete absence of funding, the library receives only a few ornithological journals thanks to foreign friends. Soviet periodicals and books on ornithology are rather more complete, though series of modern Russian periodicals and books have many gaps.

Financial situation: in the last decade the university has covered the costs of salaries, some building facilities, local phone calls, and occasionally stationery, computers and some collection management expenses. However all travel costs, part of office facilities, alcohol, and some of the literature for the library are paid from research funds and some special grants, often from abroad. The museum has neither

sponsors, nor patrons, nor its own societies. Salaries currently vary between an equivalent to US\$ 40-50 and \$ 120-130 per month.

4. STAFF

Many well-known ornithologists have been employed by the ZMMU. They have always had to combine their research and care for the collection with collection management. For the first 16 years after the foundation of the Department of Ornithology in 1932 the collection-leader was Georgy DEMENTIEV. Subsequent leaders have been: Nikolay GLADKOV (1947-1954, 8 years), Angelina SUDILOVSKAYA (1954-1975, 22 years) and Pavel TOMKOVICH (since 1977, over 25 years).

Other well known ornithologists who formerly belonged to the museum staff are Alexey MIKHEEV (1935-1940), Eugeny PTUSHENKO (1936-1940), Eugeny SPANGENBERG (1946-1968), Rurik BOEHME (1959-1964), Vladimir FLINT (1969-1976), Alexander KUZNETSOV (1977-1988) and Vladimir BABENKO (1976-1989).

Currently, there are three scientists in the Ornithology Section of the museum. These are: Pavel TOMKOVICH (since 1976), Eugeny KOBLIK (since 1989) and Yaroslav RED'KIN (since 2000). Additionally, Mikhail KALYAKIN was on the staff in 1988-1999, but currently his official position is that of the Museum's Secretary. Only one technician works for the section and we have help from two museum taxidermists.

Literature

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